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Patrick C. Jackman (202) 606-7000 USDL-97-127
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: MARCH 1997

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.3 percent before seasonal adjustment in March to a level of 160.0 (1982-84=100), the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. For the 12-month period ended in March, the CPI-U increased 2.8 percent.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) rose 0.1 percent in March, prior to seasonal adjustment. The March 1997 CPI-W level of 157.0 was 2.7 percent higher than the index in March 1996.

CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI-U rose 0.1 percent in March, following an increase of 0.3 percent in February. The food index, which advanced 0.3 percent in February, was unchanged in March. Grocery store food prices decreased 0.2 percent, reflecting declines in the indexes for meats, poultry, fish and eggs, and for dairy products. The energy index registered its first decrease since August, declining 1.7 percent. The index for petroleum-based energy fell 2.2 percent, and the index for energy services declined 1.3 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 0.2 percent, the same as in February. Airline fares increased 4.5 percent in March, following declines of 3.2 and 2.6 percent in January and February, respectively. This advance was essentially offset by a downturn in the index for apparel and upkeep and a smaller increase in shelter costs.

Table A. Percent changes in CPI for Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

Expenditure	Seasonally adjusted Changes from preceding month	Un- Compound annual rate	adjusted 12-mos.
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beverages	5.5	5.3	2.5	1.6	2.7	2.7	2.1	4.2	.5
Housing	3.9	4.5	3.4	2.6	2.7	2.2	3.0	2.9	2.3
Apparel and upkeep	1.0	5.1	3.4	1.4	.9	-1.6	.1	-.2	1.2
Transportation	4.0	10.4	-1.5	3.0	2.4	3.8	1.5	4.4	-.8
Medical care	8.5	9.6	7.9	6.6	5.4	4.9	3.9	3.0	3.0
Entertainment	5.1	4.3	3.9	2.8	2.8	2.3	3.3	2.9	1.5
Other goods and services	8.2	7.6	8.0	6.5	2.7	4.2	4.3	3.6	5.4
Special Indexes									
Energy	5.1	18.1	-7.4	2.0	-1.4	2.2	-1.3	8.6	-2.8
Food	5.6	5.3	1.9	1.5	2.9	2.9	2.1	4.3	.3
All items less food and energy	4.4	5.2	4.4	3.3	3.2	2.6	3.0	2.6	2.4

The food and beverage index was unchanged in March. The index for grocery store food prices, which increased 0.5 percent in February, fell 0.2 percent in March. The downturn in March reflects declines in the indexes for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs and for dairy products, coupled with a sharp deceleration in the index for fruits and vegetables. The index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs declined for the third consecutive month--down 0.9 percent in March. Price declines were registered for beef, pork, poultry, and eggs; prices for fish and seafood increased 1.3 percent. The 0.1 percent decrease in the index for dairy products was the fifth consecutive month that this component did not increase. During the last five months, the index for dairy products fell 2.1 percent after registering increases totaling 8.5 percent in the preceding five-month period. The index for fruits and vegetables, which increased 3.0 percent in February, rose 0.1 percent in March. The index for fresh vegetable prices, which increased 8.9 percent in February, declined 1.8 in March. The index for fresh fruits increased 1.4 percent. The indexes for cereal and bakery products and for other food at home rose 0.3 and 0.1 percent, respectively. The other two components of the food and beverage index--restaurant meals and alcoholic beverages--increased 0.3 percent and declined 0.1 percent, respectively.

The housing component, which rose 0.3 percent in February, was unchanged in March. Each of the three major housing groups--shelter, fuel and other utilities, and household furnishings and operations--contributed to the moderation. Shelter costs increased 0.2 percent, following a 0.3 percent rise in February. In March, within shelter, renters' costs rose 0.3 percent; homeowners' costs, 0.2 percent; and maintenance and repair

costs, 0.1 percent. The index for fuel and other utilities turned down in March, declining 0.8 percent after increasing 0.3 percent in February. The index for household fuels fell 1.5 percent, reflecting a sharp decline in prices for fuel oil and natural gas--down 3.6 and 4.2 percent, respectively. Prior to the March decline, charges for natural gas had increased 17.3 percent in the preceding 11-month period. Charges for electricity rose 0.2 percent in March. The index for household furnishings and operation, which increased 0.2 percent in February, was unchanged in March.

The transportation component, which declined in each of the first two months of 1997, rose 0.1 percent in March. Public transportation costs rose 2.2 percent in March. The index for airline fares, which fell 3.2 percent in January and 2.6 percent in February, rose 4.5 percent in March, reflecting, in part, the reimposition of the 10 percent federal tax on airline fares effective March 7. The index for gasoline, which was unchanged in February, declined 2.1 percent in March. As of March, the index for gasoline prices was 7.3 percent below its peak level of December 1990. New vehicle purchase costs advanced somewhat more in March than in recent months; the index for new vehicle prices rose 0.1 percent, and automobile finance charges increased 1.2 percent. The index for used cars increased 1.2 percent in March. (Prior to seasonal adjustment, used car prices were unchanged.)

The index for apparel and upkeep turned down in March, declining 0.3 percent after registering increases in each of the six preceding months. (Prior to seasonal adjustment, clothing prices rose 2.2 percent in March, reflecting the continued introduction of higher-priced spring-summer wear.)

Medical care costs rose 0.4 percent in March to a level 3.0 percent above a year ago. The index for medical care commodities--prescription drugs, nonprescription drugs, and medical supplies--increased 0.5 percent. The index for medical care services rose 0.3 percent. Charges for professional services and hospital and related services increased 0.5 and 0.2 percent, respectively.

Entertainment costs rose 0.2 percent in March, the same as in February. Increases in the indexes for club memberships and for fees for participant sports--up 0.7 and 1.1 percent, respectively--were largely responsible for the March advance.

The index for other goods and services rose 0.5 percent in March, principally as a result of increases in the indexes for tobacco and smoking products and for personal expenses, in particular personal financial services.

CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers rose 0.1 percent in March.

Table B. Percent changes in CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)

Expenditure Category	Seasonally adjusted							Compound annual rate 3-mos. ended Mar. '97	Un- adjust ed 12- mos. ended Mar. '97
	Changes from preceding month								
	1996			1997					
	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Mar. '97	Mar. '97
All Items	.3	.4	.3	.3	.1	.2	.1	1.5	2.7
Food and beverages	.4	.5	.4	.1	-.2	.2	.1	.3	3.3
Housing	.1	.3	.3	.2	.3	.2	.1	2.4	2.7
Apparel and upkeep	.5	.2	.3	.1	.4	.4	-.3	1.8	-.1
Transportation	.4	.4	.3	.6	.0	.0	-.1	-.3	2.3
Medical care	.3	.2	.3	.2	.2	.2	.3	2.8	3.0
Entertainment	.1	.3	.3	.3	.0	.1	.1	1.0	2.2
Other goods and services	.2	.3	.4	.0	.6	.4	.5	5.9	3.9
Special Indexes:									
Energy	.1	1.2	1.4	1.5	.9	.3	-1.8	-2.8	4.6
Food	.4	.6	.3	.1	-.3	.3	.1	.3	3.3
All items less food and energy	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	2.5	2.4

After seasonal adjustment, the level of the CPI-U for All Items was 159.9 in March; the seasonally adjusted CPI-W for All Items was 157.0.

Beginning with January 1997 data, BLS is reporting the level of the seasonally adjusted U.S. City Average All Items CPI-U and CPI-W in this monthly news release. Effective with the release of January 1998 data in February 1998, the seasonally adjusted All Items indexes will be fully integrated into the releases, appearing in tables 2 and 5 and in the text where relevant.

Like other seasonally adjusted CPI data, the All Items index levels are subject to revision for up to five years after their original release. For this reason, BLS advises against the use of these data in escalation agreements.

Consumer Price Index data for April are scheduled for release on Thursday, May 15, 1997, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).
A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

Because price data are used for different purposes by different groups, the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes seasonally adjusted as well as unadjusted changes each month.

For analyzing general price trends in the economy, seasonally adjusted changes are usually preferred since they eliminate the effect of changes that normally occur at the same time and in about the same magnitude every year--such as price movements resulting from changing climatic conditions, production cycles, model changeovers, holidays, and sales.

The unadjusted data are of primary interest to consumers concerned about the prices they actually pay. Unadjusted data also are used extensively for escalation purposes. Many collective bargaining contract agreements and pension plans, for example, tie compensation changes to the Consumer Price Index unadjusted for seasonal variation.

Seasonal factors used in computing the seasonally adjusted indexes are derived by the X-11-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Method (1988). The updated seasonal data at the end of 1977 replaced data from 1967 through 1977. Subsequent annual updates have replaced 5 years of seasonal data, e.g., data from 1992 through 1996 were replaced at the end of 1996. The seasonal movement of all items and 47 other aggregations is derived by combining the seasonal movement of 60 selected components. Each year the seasonal status of every series is reevaluated based upon certain statistical criteria. If any of the 60 components change their seasonal adjustment status from seasonally adjusted to not seasonally adjusted, not seasonally adjusted data will be used for the last 5 years, but the seasonally adjusted indexes will be used before that period.

Effective with the calculation of the seasonal factors for 1990, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has used an enhanced seasonal adjustment procedure called Intervention Analysis Seasonal Adjustment for some CPI series. Intervention Analysis Seasonal Adjustment allows for better estimates of seasonally adjusted data. Extreme values and/or sharp movements which might distort the seasonal pattern are estimated and removed from the data prior to calculation of seasonal factors. Beginning with the calculation of seasonal factors for 1996, X-12-ARIMA software was used for Intervention Analysis Seasonal Adjustment.

For the fuel oil and the motor fuels indexes, this procedure was used to offset the effects that extreme price volatility would otherwise have had on the estimates of seasonally adjusted data for those series. For some women's apparel indexes and the girls' apparel index, the procedure was used to offset the effects of changes in pricing methodology. For the tobacco and smoking products index, this procedure was used to offset the effects of increases in excise taxes and wholesale tobacco prices. For some alcoholic beverage series, Intervention Analysis Seasonal Adjustment was used to offset the effects of excise tax increases. For the nonalcoholic beverages index, the procedure was used to offset the effects of a large increase in coffee prices due to adverse weather. For the water and sewerage maintenance index, the procedure was used to account for a data collection anomaly.

A description of Intervention Analysis Seasonal Adjustment, as well as a list of unusual events modeled and seasonal factors for these items, may be obtained by writing the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, Washington, DC 20212 or by calling Claire McAnaw Gallagher on (202) 606-6968.

Over-the-month percent changes in the U.S. City Average Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for All Items and for All Items less food and energy, seasonally adjusted, using former and recalculated seasonal factors for 1996.

All Items

1996	Former	Recalculated	Difference
January	.4	.4	.0
February	.2	.3	.1
March	.4	.3	-.1
April	.4	.3	-.1
May	.3	.3	.0
June	.1	.1	.0
July	.3	.3	.0
August	.1	.2	.1
September	.3	.3	.0
October	.3	.3	.0
November	.3	.3	.0
December	.3	.3	.0

All Items less food and energy

1996	Former	Recalculated	Difference
January	.3	.2	-.1
February	.2	.2	.0
March	.3	.2	-.1
April	.1	.2	.1
May	.2	.2	.0
June	.2	.2	.0
July	.3	.2	-.1
August	.1	.1	.0
September	.3	.3	.0
October	.2	.2	.0
November	.2	.2	.0
December	.1	.2	.1

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Relative importance, December	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to Mar. 1997 from-	Seasonally adjusted percent change from-	
	Feb.	Mar.	Mar. 1997 from-	Dec. to	Jan. to Feb. to

Expenditure category	1996	1997	1997	Mar. 1996	Feb. 1997	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
All items	100.000	159.6	160.0	2.8	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1
All items (1967=100)	-	478.2	479.3	-	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	17.484	156.9	157.1	3.3	.1	-.2	.3	.0
Food	15.913	156.5	156.6	3.3	.1	-.3	.3	.0
Food at home	10.040	157.7	157.7	3.4	.0	-.6	.5	-.2
Cereals and bakery products	1.479	176.7	176.7	2.7	.0	-.2	.1	.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	3.002	148.8	147.8	3.6	-.7	-.4	-.2	-.9
Dairy products 1/	1.245	146.2	146.1	6.9	-.1	-.5	-1.1	-.1
Fruits and vegetables 2/	1.974	187.4	189.3	3.0	1.0	-2.0	3.0	.1
Other food at home	2.340	145.4	145.5	2.2	.1	.1	.2	.1
Sugar and sweets .....	.331	147.2	146.3	2.8	-.6	.6	.0	-.6
Fats and oils .....	.246	142.7	142.4	1.6	-.2	-.1	.1	-.1
Nonalcoholic beverages .....	.724	128.5	129.5	-.2	.8	.2	-.5	1.3
Other prepared food	1.039	160.6	160.3	3.7	-.2	-.1	.8	-.4
Food away from home	5.873	155.6	156.0	3.2	.3	.3	.2	.3
Alcoholic beverages	1.571	161.8	162.1	3.0	.2	.2	.2	-.1
Housing 2/	41.203	155.8	155.9	2.8	.1	.3	.3	.0
Shelter	28.194	174.6	175.2	3.0	.3	.3	.3	.2
Renters' costs 3/ 4/	7.994	185.3	186.8	3.5	.8	.6	.3	.3
Rent, residential	5.731	164.8	165.1	2.8	.2	.2	.1	.3
Other renters' costs 4/	2.263	226.4	231.7	5.5	2.3	1.4	.9	.3
Homeowners' costs 3/ 4/	20.000	179.5	179.8	2.7	.2	.2	.3	.2
Owners' equivalent rent 3/	19.616	179.9	180.1	2.7	.1	.2	.3	.1
Household insurance 3/ 4/ .....	.383	163.8	163.3	2.6	-.3	.2	.9	-.5
Maintenance and repairs 1/ 4/ .....	.200	142.3	142.4	3.6	.1	.0	.6	.1
Maintenance and repair								
services 1/ 4/ .....	.123	148.4	148.4	3.2	.0	.1	.1	.0
Maintenance and repair								
commodities 1/ 4/ .....	.077	133.9	134.3	4.1	.3	-.1	1.1	.3
Fuel and other utilities 2/	7.102	131.0	129.9	3.8	-.8	.7	.3	-.8
Fuels	3.878	119.2	117.2	4.7	-1.7	1.0	.5	-1.5
Fuel oil and other household fuel								
commodities .....	.424	109.6	105.5	6.2	-3.7	-1.2	-1.9	-3.3
Gas (piped) and electricity (energy								
services).....	3.453	125.3	123.4	4.4	-1.5	1.4	.7	-1.3
Other utilities and public								
services 4/	3.224	160.2	160.5	2.6	.2	.3	.0	.1
Household furnishings and operation 2/ .	5.908	125.2	125.4	.6	.2	-.2	.2	.0
Housefurnishings 4/	3.332	111.2	111.1	-.5	-.1	-.4	.2	-.3

Housekeeping supplies	1.093	142.5	142.8	1.3	.2	.4	.1	.0
Housekeeping services 4/	1.482	149.9	150.6	2.7	.5	-.5	.1	.5
Apparel and upkeep	5.330	131.9	134.5	-.2	2.0	.4	.2	-.3
Apparel commodities 4/	4.786	128.2	131.0	-.5	2.2	.5	.2	-.4
Men's and boys' apparel	1.280	127.3	129.2	.1	1.5	1.0	-.9	-.2
Women's and girls' apparel.....	2.102	126.1	130.1	.2	3.2	.6	.7	-.6
Infants' and toddlers' apparel 1/ ....	.186	127.2	129.7	-2.7	2.0	.8	-.5	2.0
Footwear .....	.718	126.3	127.0	-.9	.6	-.8	.2	-.4
Other apparel commodities 4/.....	.500	146.9	149.5	-3.4	1.8	.1	.7	-.3
Apparel services 1/ 4/ .....	.545	162.2	162.4	2.2	.1	.1	.3	.1
Transportation	17.140	144.8	144.9	2.6	.1	-.2	-.1	.1
Private transportation	15.499	141.9	141.5	2.3	-.3	.1	.2	-.2
New vehicles	4.955	145.4	145.4	1.3	.0	-.2	.0	.1
New cars	3.952	142.9	142.9	1.0	.0	-.2	.0	.1
Used cars	1.278	154.4	154.4	-1.8	.0	.1	.5	1.2
Motor fuel	3.171	108.1	106.4	4.9	-1.6	.6	.0	-2.1
Gasoline	-	107.4	105.8	4.6	-1.5	.7	.0	-2.1
Maintenance and repairs	1.533	161.2	161.5	2.9	.2	.4	-.1	.2
Other private transportation 4/.....	4.562	177.1	177.4	2.8	.2	-.1	.5	.3
Other private transportation commodities 4/.....	.589	105.4	105.1	-.2	-.3	-.2	.3	-.3
Other private transportation services 4/	3.973	194.1	194.5	3.3	.2	-.1	.6	.4
Public transportation	1.642	182.4	188.1	5.1	3.1	-2.9	-2.0	2.2
Medical care	7.346	232.7	233.4	3.0	.3	.2	.2	.4
Medical care commodities	1.273	213.9	214.7	2.8	.4	.2	.3	.5
Medical care services	6.073	237.1	237.7	3.0	.3	.2	.2	.3
Professional medical services	3.472	213.2	214.2	3.7	.5	.4	.1	.5
Entertainment 4/	4.352	161.8	162.1	2.3	.2	.0	.2	.2
Entertainment commodities 4/	1.957	144.3	144.5	1.3	.1	-.3	.1	.0
Entertainment services 4/	2.395	182.1	182.7	3.2	.3	.2	.3	.3
Other goods and services 2/	7.145	220.7	221.4	3.9	.3	.4	.5	.5
Tobacco and smoking products	1.601	237.4	238.2	3.2	.3	.4	.6	.4
Personal care 1/	1.145	151.5	151.8	1.6	.2	.7	-.1	.2
Toilet goods and personal care appliances 1/ .....	.588	143.3	143.6	-.3	.2	.6	-.2	.2
Personal care services 1/ .....	.557	160.7	161.2	3.8	.3	.9	.0	.3
Personal and educational expenses 4/ ...	4.398	255.0	255.8	4.8	.3	.3	.6	.5
School books and supplies .....	.264	235.3	235.4	4.5	.0	-.1	.4	.3
Personal and educational services 4/ .	4.134	256.7	257.6	4.8	.4	.4	.6	.5

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group - Continued

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Commodity and service group	Relative importance, December 1996	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to Mar. 1997 from-		Seasonally adjusted percent change from-			
		Feb. 1997	Mar. 1997	Mar. 1996	Feb. 1997	Dec. to Jan.	Jan. to Feb.	Feb. to Mar.	
All items	100.000	159.6	160.0	2.8	.3	.1	.3	.1	
Commodities	42.873	141.8	142.0	2.0	.1	.0	.2	-.2	
Food and beverages	17.484	156.9	157.1	3.3	.1	-.2	.3	.0	
Commodities less food and beverages	25.389	132.6	132.9	1.2	.2	.2	.1	-.3	
Nondurables less food and beverages ..	15.147	134.6	135.0	1.8	.3	.1	.3	-.8	
Apparel commodities 4/	4.786	128.2	131.0	-.5	2.2	.5	.2	-.4	
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	10.362	141.0	140.2	2.9	-.6	.3	.1	-.6	
Durables	10.242	129.8	129.9	.3	.1	-.2	.1	.0	
Services	57.127	177.7	178.2	3.2	.3	.2	.2	.2	
Rent of shelter 3/	27.577	181.6	182.3	3.0	.4	.3	.3	.3	
Household services less rent of shelter 3/ 4/.....	8.698	145.0	144.3	3.4	-.5	.6	.4	-.3	
Transportation services	7.148	183.4	184.9	3.6	.8	-.7	-.1	.8	
Medical care services	6.073	237.1	237.7	3.0	.3	.2	.2	.3	
Other services	7.631	206.7	207.3	4.1	.3	.3	.4	.4	
Special indexes									
All items less food	84.087	160.2	160.6	2.6	.2	.2	.2	.1	
All items less shelter	71.806	155.3	155.6	2.6	.2	.1	.2	.0	
All items less homeowners' costs 3/ 4/.....	80.000	160.8	161.2	2.7	.2	.1	.2	.1	
All items less medical care	92.654	155.5	155.9	2.8	.3	.1	.3	.0	
Commodities less food	26.960	133.8	134.1	1.3	.2	.1	.1	-.2	
Nondurables less food	16.718	136.2	136.6	1.9	.3	.1	.2	-.7	
Nondurables less food and apparel	11.932	142.1	141.4	3.0	-.5	.1	.1	-.7	
Nondurables	32.631	145.9	146.2	2.6	.2	.1	.3	-.4	
Services less rent of shelter 3/ 4/	29.550	186.4	186.7	3.5	.2	.1	.2	.3	

Services less medical care services	51.054	172.2	172.7	3.3	.3	.2	.2	.3
Energy	7.049	113.1	111.2	4.8	-1.7	.8	.3	-1.7
All items less energy	92.951	165.9	166.5	2.6	.4	.1	.2	.2
All items less food and energy	77.038	168.3	169.0	2.5	.4	.1	.2	.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	23.364	142.2	143.0	.8	.6	.1	.1	.1
Energy commodities	3.596	108.6	106.6	5.1	-1.8	.4	-.2	-2.2
Services less energy services	53.674	183.1	183.8	3.2	.4	.1	.3	.3
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:								
1982-84=\$1.00 1/	-	\$.626	\$.625	-2.6	-.2	-.5	-.3	-.2
1967=\$1.00 1/	-	.209	.209	-	-	-	-	-

1/ Not seasonally adjusted.

2/ This index series will undergo a change in composition in January, 1998.

3/ Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

4/ This index series will no longer appear in its present form after December, 1997.

See Table X for a comparable index series.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Seasonally adjusted U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Expenditure category	Seasonally adjusted indexes					Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for				
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	June	3 months ended-		6 months ended-		
	1996	1997	1997	1997	1996	Sept. 1996	Dec. 1996	Mar. 1997	Sept. 1996	Mar. 1997
All items	-	-	-	-	2.9	3.1	3.3	1.8	3.0	2.5
Food and beverages	156.6	156.3	156.8	156.8	4.3	5.0	3.4	.5	4.7	1.9
Food	156.4	156.0	156.5	156.5	4.3	5.3	3.4	.3	4.8	1.8
Food at home	157.7	156.7	157.5	157.2	5.1	6.4	3.6	-1.3	5.7	1.2
Cereals and bakery products	176.6	176.3	176.4	177.0	3.3	2.6	3.9	.9	2.9	2.4
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	149.3	148.7	148.4	147.1	5.8	9.5	5.8	-5.8	7.6	-.1
Dairy products 1/	148.6	147.8	146.2	146.1	9.4	21.3	5.3	-6.6	15.2	-.8
Fruits and vegetables 2/	185.9	182.2	187.7	187.8	6.5	1.3	.6	4.2	3.9	2.4
Other food at home	144.4	144.5	144.8	145.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	1.7	2.3	2.0

Sugar and sweets	146.0	146.9	146.9	146.0	4.6	4.8	1.9	.0	4.7	1.0
Fats and oils	142.0	141.9	142.1	142.0	3.2	3.5	.3	.0	3.3	.1
Nonalcoholic beverages	127.7	127.9	127.3	129.0	-1.8	-1.9	-.9	4.1	-1.8	1.6
Other prepared food	159.6	159.4	160.6	160.0	5.0	4.2	4.9	1.0	4.6	2.9
Food away from home	154.9	155.3	155.6	156.0	2.9	3.2	3.4	2.9	3.1	3.1
Alcoholic beverages	161.1	161.4	161.8	161.6	3.4	3.6	3.6	1.2	3.5	2.4
Housing 2/	154.7	155.2	155.6	155.6	2.4	3.2	3.2	2.3	2.8	2.8
Shelter	172.9	173.4	174.0	174.3	2.6	3.1	2.8	3.3	2.9	3.1
Renters' costs 3/ 4/.....	181.7	182.8	183.4	183.9	3.0	3.6	2.7	4.9	3.3	3.8
Rent, residential	164.0	164.4	164.6	165.1	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.7
Other renters' costs 4/	218.0	221.1	223.1	223.7	2.5	6.5	2.2	10.9	4.5	6.5
Homeowners' costs 3/ 4/	178.6	179.0	179.5	179.8	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7
Owners' equivalent rent 3/	179.0	179.3	179.9	180.1	2.5	2.7	3.0	2.5	2.6	2.7
Household insurance 3/ 4/	162.5	162.9	164.3	163.5	3.0	4.3	.7	2.5	3.7	1.6
Maintenance and repairs 1/ 4/	141.5	141.5	142.3	142.4	3.8	3.2	4.7	2.6	3.5	3.6
Maintenance and repair services 1/ 4/	148.0	148.2	148.4	148.4	2.2	8.0	1.6	1.1	5.1	1.4
Maintenance and repair commodities 1/ 4/	132.6	132.5	133.9	134.3	6.0	-4.2	9.9	5.2	.8	7.6
Fuel and other utilities 2/.....	130.3	131.2	131.6	130.5	2.9	5.1	6.1	.6	4.0	3.3
Fuels	117.6	118.8	119.4	117.6	2.2	7.3	9.0	.0	4.7	4.4
Fuel oil and other household fuel commodities	109.5	108.2	106.1	102.6	-2.9	13.1	50.9	-22.9	4.8	7.8
Gas (piped) and electricity (energy services).....	123.6	125.3	126.2	124.6	3.0	6.5	4.7	3.3	4.7	4.0
Other utilities and public services 4/	159.6	160.0	160.0	160.2	3.4	2.6	3.1	1.5	3.0	2.3
Household furnishings and operation 2/ ...	125.2	124.9	125.1	125.1	1.0	1.3	1.0	-.3	1.1	.3
Housefurnishings 4/	111.4	111.0	111.2	110.9	-.4	.0	.4	-1.8	-.2	-.7
Housekeeping supplies	141.7	142.3	142.5	142.5	.6	1.4	.9	2.3	1.0	1.6
Housekeeping services 4/	150.3	149.6	149.7	150.5	3.9	3.8	3.0	.5	3.9	1.8
Apparel and upkeep	131.8	132.3	132.6	132.2	-2.4	-2.1	2.5	1.2	-2.3	1.8
Apparel commodities 4/	128.0	128.6	128.8	128.3	-2.8	-2.5	2.2	.9	-2.6	1.6
Men's and boys' apparel	128.2	129.5	128.3	128.0	-.9	-2.2	3.8	-.6	-1.6	1.6
Women's and girls' apparel	124.9	125.7	126.6	125.8	-3.5	-4.1	5.6	2.9	-3.8	4.3
Infants' and toddlers' apparel 1/	126.9	127.9	127.2	129.7	-12.0	7.3	-13.0	9.1	-2.8	-2.6
Footwear	127.4	126.4	126.7	126.2	-.9	-.6	2.2	-3.7	-.8	-.8
Other apparel commodities 4/.....	146.7	146.8	147.9	147.5	-4.9	-1.3	-9.0	2.2	-3.1	-3.6
Apparel services 1/ 4/	161.5	161.7	162.2	162.4	2.0	1.8	2.8	2.2	1.9	2.5
Transportation	145.7	145.4	145.3	145.4	4.0	2.0	5.4	-.8	3.0	2.2
Private transportation	142.3	142.4	142.7	142.4	3.2	1.4	4.6	.3	2.3	2.4
New vehicles	144.7	144.4	144.4	144.6	2.3	3.7	-.6	-.3	3.0	-.4
New cars	142.2	141.9	141.9	142.0	2.0	3.7	-1.4	-.6	2.9	-1.0
Used cars	155.0	155.1	155.8	157.7	-10.5	.5	-3.8	7.2	-5.2	1.5

Motor fuel	111.1	111.8	111.8	109.5	8.3	-5.9	25.8	-5.6	1.0	9.0
Gasoline	110.5	111.3	111.3	109.0	7.9	-6.6	25.5	-5.3	.4	9.0
Maintenance and repairs	160.7	161.3	161.2	161.5	2.6	4.6	2.5	2.0	3.6	2.3
Other private transportation 4/.....	175.3	175.2	176.1	176.7	4.5	3.7	.0	3.2	4.1	1.6
Other private transportation commodities 4/.....	105.0	104.8	105.1	104.8	1.1	-.8	-.8	-.8	.2	-.8
Other private transportation services 4/	192.1	192.0	193.1	193.9	5.0	4.3	.2	3.8	4.6	2.0
Public transportation	191.2	185.6	181.9	185.9	14.3	6.0	13.1	-10.6	10.1	.5
Medical care	231.5	231.9	232.3	233.2	3.4	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.1	2.9
Medical care commodities	212.4	212.8	213.5	214.5	3.7	1.9	1.7	4.0	2.8	2.9
Medical care services	235.6	236.0	236.4	237.2	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.7	3.2	2.8
Professional medical services	211.6	212.4	212.7	213.7	3.1	3.9	3.5	4.0	3.5	3.8
Entertainment 4/	161.1	161.1	161.4	161.7	2.6	1.8	3.3	1.5	2.2	2.4
Entertainment commodities 4/	144.4	144.0	144.2	144.2	1.4	1.4	2.5	-.6	1.4	1.0
Entertainment services 4/	180.8	181.1	181.6	182.1	3.7	2.3	3.9	2.9	3.0	3.4
Other goods and services 2/.....	219.4	220.3	221.3	222.3	3.6	3.6	3.2	5.4	3.6	4.3
Tobacco and smoking products	235.3	236.2	237.6	238.5	1.9	3.5	1.9	5.6	2.7	3.7
Personal care 1/	150.5	151.6	151.5	151.8	.5	3.2	-.8	3.5	1.9	1.3
Toilet goods and personal care appliances 1/	142.8	143.6	143.3	143.6	-.3	3.4	-6.2	2.3	1.5	-2.1
Personal care services 1/	159.2	160.7	160.7	161.2	1.6	3.4	5.2	5.1	2.5	5.2
Personal and educational expenses 4/	252.7	253.5	255.0	256.3	5.2	3.8	4.6	5.8	4.5	5.2
School books and supplies	232.5	232.2	233.2	234.0	4.0	6.3	5.3	2.6	5.2	4.0
Personal and educational services 4/ ...	254.1	255.0	256.5	257.8	5.1	3.6	4.5	6.0	4.4	5.2

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Seasonally adjusted U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group - Continued

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Seasonally adjusted indexes					Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for				
Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	June	3 months ended-		6 months ended-		
1996	1997	1997	1997	1996	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Sept.	Mar.
					1996	1996	1997	1996	1997

Commodity and service group

All items	-	-	-	-	2.9	3.1	3.3	1.8	3.0	2.5
Commodities	141.8	141.8	142.1	141.8	2.0	2.3	3.8	.0	2.2	1.9
Food and beverages	156.6	156.3	156.8	156.8	4.3	5.0	3.4	.5	4.7	1.9
Commodities less food and beverages	132.8	133.0	133.1	132.7	.6	.3	4.0	-.3	.5	1.8
Nondurables less food and beverages	135.2	135.3	135.7	134.6	2.4	-.9	7.8	-1.8	.8	2.9
Apparel commodities 4/	128.0	128.6	128.8	128.3	-2.8	-2.5	2.2	.9	-2.6	1.6
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	141.8	142.2	142.3	141.4	3.8	-.9	10.8	-1.1	1.5	4.7
Durables	129.7	129.5	129.6	129.6	.0	1.2	.0	-.3	.6	-.2
Services	176.8	177.2	177.6	178.0	3.5	3.5	3.2	2.7	3.5	3.0
Rent of shelter 3/	180.3	180.8	181.3	181.8	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.4	3.0	3.2
Household services less rent of shelter 3/ 4/.....	144.3	145.1	145.7	145.2	3.8	4.0	3.4	2.5	3.9	3.0
Transportation services	184.1	182.9	182.7	184.1	6.5	4.7	3.6	.0	5.6	1.8
Medical care services	235.6	236.0	236.4	237.2	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.7	3.2	2.8
Other services	205.4	206.1	206.9	207.8	4.3	3.0	4.2	4.8	3.6	4.5

Special indexes

All items less food	159.6	159.9	160.2	160.3	2.6	2.6	3.6	1.8	2.6	2.7
All items less shelter	155.1	155.2	155.5	155.5	2.9	2.9	3.7	1.0	2.9	2.4
All items less homeowners' costs 3/ 4/.....	160.3	160.5	160.8	160.9	2.8	3.1	3.6	1.5	3.0	2.5
All items less medical care	154.9	155.1	155.5	155.5	2.9	2.9	3.4	1.6	2.9	2.5
Commodities less food	134.1	134.2	134.4	134.1	.9	.6	4.0	.0	.8	2.0
Nondurables less food	136.7	136.8	137.1	136.2	2.7	-.9	7.7	-1.5	.9	3.0
Nondurables less food and apparel	142.8	142.9	143.1	142.1	3.5	2.0	8.6	-1.9	2.8	3.2
Nondurables	146.0	146.1	146.5	145.9	3.1	2.0	5.4	-.3	2.5	2.5
Services less rent of shelter 3/	185.7	185.9	186.2	186.7	3.8	4.0	3.7	2.2	3.9	3.0
Services less medical care services	171.3	171.7	172.0	172.5	3.4	3.6	3.3	2.8	3.5	3.1
Energy	113.7	114.6	114.9	112.9	4.9	1.1	16.2	-2.8	3.0	6.3
All items less energy	165.4	165.5	165.9	166.2	2.7	3.2	2.5	1.9	3.0	2.2
All items less food and energy	167.7	167.9	168.3	168.7	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.4
Commodities less food and energy commodities	141.9	142.0	142.2	142.3	.0	1.1	.9	1.1	.6	1.0
Energy commodities	111.1	111.5	111.3	108.8	7.1	-4.1	28.7	-8.0	1.4	8.8
Services less energy services	182.2	182.4	182.9	183.4	3.4	3.4	3.1	2.7	3.4	2.9

1/ Not seasonally adjusted.

2/ This index series will undergo a change in composition in January, 1998.

3/ Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

4/ This index series will no longer appear in its present form after December, 1997.

See Table X for a comparable index series.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 3. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Selected areas, all items index

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Area	Pricing schedule 1/	Indexes				Percent change to Mar. 1997 from-			Percent change to Feb. 1997 from-		
		Dec. 1996	Jan. 1997	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1997	Mar. 1996	Jan. 1997	Feb. 1997	Feb. 1996	Dec. 1996	Jan. 1997
U.S. city average	M	158.6	159.1	159.6	160.0	2.8	0.6	0.3	3.0	0.6	0.3
Region and area size 2/											
Northeast urban.....	M	165.7	166.2	166.9	167.3	2.8	.7	.2	2.9	.7	.4
Size A - More than 1,200,000	M	166.2	166.8	167.7	168.1	2.7	.8	.2	2.9	.9	.5
Size B - 500,000 to 1,200,000 3/.....	M	164.3	164.2	164.2	164.8	2.9	.4	.4	3.1	-.1	.0
Size C - 50,000 to 500,000 3/.....	M	164.6	164.7	165.3	165.6	3.0	.5	.2	2.9	.4	.4
North Central urban	M	155.3	155.5	155.9	155.9	2.8	.3	.0	3.4	.4	.3
Size A - More than 1,200,000	M	155.5	156.0	156.5	156.6	2.6	.4	.1	3.2	.6	.3
Size B - 360,000 to 1,200,000 3/.....	M	154.5	154.3	154.4	154.6	2.8	.2	.1	3.3	-.1	.1
Size C - 50,000 to 360,000 3/.....	M	157.7	157.8	158.3	158.1	3.3	.2	-.1	3.9	.4	.3
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	151.9	152.2	152.1	152.1	3.0	-.1	.0	3.5	.1	-.1
South urban	M	155.1	155.7	156.1	156.5	2.7	.5	.3	3.0	.6	.3
Size A - More than 1,200,000	M	154.0	154.9	155.2	155.4	2.6	.3	.1	3.1	.8	.2
Size B - 450,000 to 1,200,000 3/.....	M	158.2	158.5	158.9	159.7	3.0	.8	.5	3.1	.4	.3
Size C - 50,000 to 450,000 3/.....	M	154.4	155.0	155.6	155.7	2.3	.5	.1	2.8	.8	.4
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	154.4	154.8	155.5	156.0	2.9	.8	.3	3.6	.7	.5
West urban	M	158.7	159.6	160.1	160.8	2.8	.8	.4	2.8	.9	.3
Size A - More than 1,250,000	M	158.7	159.6	160.1	160.9	2.7	.8	.5	2.7	.9	.3
Size C - 50,000 to 330,000 3/.....	M	163.9	164.9	165.4	166.3	3.0	.8	.5	2.9	.9	.3
Size classes											
A 4/	M	142.9	143.6	144.1	144.4	2.6	.6	.2	2.9	.8	.3

B 3/	M	159.0	159.2	159.5	160.1	3.0	.6	.4	3.1	.3	.2
C 3/	M	158.6	159.1	159.6	159.8	2.8	.4	.1	3.1	.6	.3
D	M	155.5	155.9	156.2	156.4	2.8	.3	.1	3.4	.5	.2

Selected local areas

Chicago-Gary-Lake County, IL-IN-WI.....	M	159.7	160.4	161.1	161.0	3.0	.4	-.1	3.8	.9	.4
Los Angeles-Anaheim-Riverside, CA	M	158.3	159.1	159.2	159.8	1.6	.4	.4	1.9	.6	.1
N.Y.-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton,	M	168.5	169.1	170.1	170.7	2.5	.9	.4	2.7	.9	.6
PA-NJ-DE-MD 5/	M	164.3	165.1	165.8	166.1	2.5	.6	.2	2.9	.9	.4
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA 5/ ..	M	156.0	157.0	157.9	159.2	4.1	1.4	.8	3.1	1.2	.6
Baltimore, MD 6/	1	-	155.8	-	157.1	2.7	.8	-	-	-	-
Boston-Lawrence-Salem, MA-NH	1	-	167.7	-	168.1	3.3	.2	-	-	-	-
Cleveland-Akron-Lorain, OH	1	-	153.8	-	155.4	3.0	1.0	-	-	-	-
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL	1	-	158.1	-	158.5	4.0	.3	-	-	-	-
St. Louis-East St. Louis, MO-IL 7/	1	-	151.5	-	152.2	2.2	.5	-	-	-	-
Washington, DC-MD-VA 6/	1	-	161.6	-	161.9	2.2	.2	-	-	-	-
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	2	150.0	-	150.7	-	-	-	-	3.1	.5	-
Detroit-Ann Arbor, MI	2	154.3	-	155.4	-	-	-	-	2.7	.7	-
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX	2	143.6	-	144.5	-	-	-	-	2.1	.6	-
Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley, PA 7/	2	155.4	-	156.2	-	-	-	-	3.4	.5	-

- 1/ Foods, fuels, and several other items priced every month in all areas; most other goods and services priced as indicated:
M - Every month.
1 - January, March, May, July, September, and November.
2 - February, April, June, August, October, and December.
- 2/ Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map in technical notes.
- 3/ Starting in January, 1998, a new Size Class B/C will be introduced, composed of current Size Class B and Size Class C cities. There will be no individual Size Class B or Size Class C.
- 4/ Indexes on a December 1986=100 base.
- 5/ Indexes for the cities of Philadelphia and San Francisco will no longer be published on a monthly basis starting in January, 1998. Beginning in February, 1998 they will be published on a bi-monthly basis.
- 6/ Indexes for the cities of Washington and Baltimore will no longer be published separately after December, 1997. Beginning in January, 1998 the two cities will be published as a Washington-Baltimore combined metropolitan area.
- 7/ Indexes for the cities of Pittsburgh and St. Louis will no longer be published on a bi-monthly basis after December, 1997. Beginning in July, 1998 they will be published semi-annually, each January and July.
- Data not available.

NOTE: Local area CPI indexes are byproducts of the national CPI program. Each local index has a smaller sample size than the national index and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in their escalator clauses.

Table 4. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Expenditure category	Relative importance, December 1996	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to Mar. 1997 from-		Seasonally adjusted percent change from-		
		Feb. 1997	Mar. 1997	Mar. 1996	Feb. 1997	Dec. to Jan.	Jan. to Feb.	Feb. to Mar.
All items	100.000	156.8	157.0	2.7	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
All items (1967=100)	-	467.0	467.8	-	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	19.436	156.4	156.5	3.3	.1	-.2	.2	.1
Food	17.749	156.0	156.1	3.3	.1	-.3	.3	.1
Food at home	11.387	156.8	156.7	3.4	-.1	-.6	.3	-.1
Cereals and bakery products	1.688	176.4	176.4	2.8	.0	-.1	-.1	.4
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	3.535	148.4	147.4	3.6	-.7	-.5	-.3	-.8
Dairy products 1/	1.387	146.0	145.8	6.7	-.1	-.6	-1.1	-.1
Fruits and vegetables 2/	2.086	186.1	188.2	3.0	1.1	-1.7	2.7	.3
Other food at home	2.691	145.0	145.1	2.1	.1	.0	.2	.1
Sugar and sweets .....	.373	147.2	146.2	2.7	-.7	.5	.2	-.7
Fats and oils .....	.282	142.3	142.2	1.6	-.1	-.3	.1	.1
Nonalcoholic beverages .....	.841	128.0	128.9	-.2	.7	.0	-.4	1.1
Other prepared food	1.194	160.4	160.1	3.7	-.2	-.1	.7	-.5
Food away from home	6.362	155.7	156.0	3.2	.2	.3	.2	.3
Alcoholic beverages	1.687	161.1	161.5	3.0	.2	.1	.1	.1
Housing 2/	38.747	152.4	152.5	2.7	.1	.3	.2	.1
Shelter	25.867	169.4	169.9	2.9	.3	.2	.3	.2
Renters' costs 3/ 4/	8.079	160.9	161.9	3.1	.6	.4	.3	.3
Rent, residential	6.580	164.4	164.7	2.7	.2	.2	.1	.2
Other renters' costs 4/	1.499	224.9	229.9	4.7	2.2	1.3	.6	.3
Homeowners' costs 3/ 4/	17.599	163.7	163.9	2.7	.1	.2	.3	.2
Owners' equivalent rent 3/	17.277	164.0	164.3	2.8	.2	.2	.3	.2
Household insurance 3/ 4/ .....	.322	148.5	148.1	1.5	-.3	.4	.7	-.3

Maintenance and repairs 1/ 4/ .....	.189	140.7	140.9	3.4	.1	.0	.4	.1
Maintenance and repair services 1/ 4/ .....	.105	150.3	150.3	3.1	.0	-.1	.2	.0
Maintenance and repair commodities 1/ 4/ .....	.084	128.3	128.7	3.7	.3	.2	.8	.3
Fuel and other utilities 2/	7.344	130.7	129.6	3.7	-.8	.8	.3	-.8
Fuels	3.979	118.5	116.5	4.5	-1.7	1.1	.5	-1.4
Fuel oil and other household fuel commodities .....	.391	109.4	105.3	6.3	-3.7	-1.2	-2.0	-3.5
Gas (piped) and electricity (energy services).....	3.588	124.8	122.9	4.2	-1.5	1.4	.7	-1.2
Other utilities and public services 4/	3.365	160.9	161.2	2.7	.2	.3	.1	.1
Household furnishings and operation 2/ .	5.536	123.7	123.9	.6	.2	-.2	.1	.0
Housefurnishings 4/	3.261	109.8	109.8	-.4	.0	-.5	.1	-.1
Housekeeping supplies	1.129	143.1	143.5	1.6	.3	.4	.1	.1
Housekeeping services 4/	1.145	152.9	153.3	2.5	.3	-.3	.1	.3
Apparel and upkeep	5.348	131.1	133.8	-.1	2.1	.4	.4	-.3
Apparel commodities 4/	4.838	127.6	130.5	-.3	2.3	.5	.4	-.3
Men's and boys' apparel	1.286	127.2	128.8	-.1	1.3	.9	-.9	-.2
Women's and girls' apparel.....	2.053	124.8	129.2	.5	3.5	.6	1.1	-.4
Infants' and toddlers' apparel 1/ ....	.240	128.1	130.7	-3.0	2.0	.3	-.3	2.0
Footwear .....	.799	127.2	127.9	-.7	.6	-.7	.1	-.5
Other apparel commodities 4/.....	.461	145.7	149.5	-2.7	2.6	.4	1.0	-.9
Apparel services 1/ 4/ .....	.510	161.3	161.5	2.1	.1	.2	.3	.1
Transportation	19.190	144.4	144.2	2.3	-.1	.0	.0	-.1
Private transportation	17.934	142.4	141.9	2.2	-.4	.1	.1	-.1
New vehicles	4.893	146.7	146.6	1.5	-.1	-.1	-.1	.2
New cars	3.533	142.5	142.5	1.1	.0	-.2	-.1	.2
Used cars	2.320	155.7	155.7	-1.6	.0	.1	.4	1.3
Motor fuel	3.921	108.2	106.3	4.8	-1.8	.6	-.1	-2.2
Gasoline	-	107.5	105.7	4.4	-1.7	.5	-.2	-2.2
Maintenance and repairs	1.616	162.1	162.5	2.9	.2	.4	-.2	.4
Other private transportation 4/.....	5.185	172.6	172.8	2.8	.1	.1	.4	.3
Other private transportation commodities 4/.....	.742	104.3	104.1	-.3	-.2	-.2	.1	.0
Other private transportation services 4/	4.442	190.0	190.2	3.3	.1	.2	.5	.3
Public transportation	1.256	180.3	185.1	4.5	2.7	-2.7	-2.2	1.7
Medical care	6.251	232.1	232.8	3.0	.3	.2	.2	.3
Medical care commodities	1.047	211.4	212.1	2.7	.3	.1	.4	.3
Medical care services	5.204	236.8	237.4	3.0	.3	.2	.0	.4

Professional medical services	2.973	214.3	215.4	3.8	.5	.2	.2	.5
Entertainment 4/	4.015	159.2	159.6	2.2	.3	.0	.1	.1
Entertainment commodities 4/	2.036	143.1	143.4	1.2	.2	-.3	.1	.0
Entertainment services 4/	1.979	182.2	182.8	3.3	.3	.2	.1	.4
Other goods and services 2/	7.012	217.4	218.0	3.9	.3	.6	.4	.5
Tobacco and smoking products	2.117	237.0	237.7	3.0	.3	.6	.5	.4
Personal care 1/	1.107	151.4	151.6	1.5	.1	.8	-.1	.1
Toilet goods and personal care appliances 1/ .....	.610	144.2	144.3	-.2	.1	.6	-.1	.1
Personal care services 1/ .....	.497	160.8	161.2	3.9	.2	.9	.0	.2
Personal and educational expenses 4/ ...	3.788	250.8	251.6	5.1	.3	.5	.6	.5
School books and supplies .....	.232	236.9	237.1	4.8	.1	-.1	.3	.3
Personal and educational services 4/ .	3.556	252.3	253.0	5.0	.3	.6	.6	.5

Table 4. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group - Continued

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Commodity and service group	Relative importance, December 1996	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to Mar. 1997 from-		Seasonally adjusted percent change from-		
		Feb. 1997	Mar. 1997	Mar. 1996	Feb. 1997	Dec. to Jan.	Jan. to Feb.	Feb. to Mar.
All items	100.000	156.8	157.0	2.7	.1	.1	.2	.1
Commodities	47.057	141.8	142.0	2.1	.1	.0	.2	-.1
Food and beverages	19.436	156.4	156.5	3.3	.1	-.2	.2	.1
Commodities less food and beverages	27.621	132.9	133.1	1.3	.2	.2	.2	-.3
Nondurables less food and beverages ..	16.215	134.5	134.8	2.0	.2	.1	.2	-.7
Apparel commodities 4/	4.838	127.6	130.5	-.3	2.3	.5	.4	-.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	11.377	140.8	139.9	3.1	-.6	.3	.1	-.8
Durables	11.407	129.5	129.6	.2	.1	-.1	.1	.0
Services	52.943	174.9	175.2	3.2	.2	.2	.2	.2
Rent of shelter 3/	25.329	163.0	163.5	2.9	.3	.4	.2	.2
Household services less rent of shelter 3/ 4/.....	8.553	133.3	132.6	3.3	-.5	.7	.4	-.4

Transportation services	7.314	181.3	182.3	3.3	.6	-.3	-.1	.6
Medical care services	5.204	236.8	237.4	3.0	.3	.2	.0	.4
Other services	6.542	203.5	204.1	4.2	.3	.4	.3	.4
Special indexes								
All items less food	82.251	156.8	157.1	2.5	.2	.2	.2	.1
All items less shelter	74.133	153.5	153.7	2.6	.1	.1	.1	.0
All items less homeowners' costs 3/ 4/.....	82.401	147.3	147.5	2.6	.1	.1	.2	.0
All items less medical care	93.749	153.2	153.5	2.7	.2	.1	.2	.0
Commodities less food	29.308	134.0	134.2	1.4	.1	.1	.1	-.3
Nondurables less food	17.901	136.0	136.4	2.1	.3	.1	.3	-.9
Nondurables less food and apparel	13.064	141.8	141.1	3.1	-.5	.1	.2	-.8
Nondurables	35.651	145.7	146.0	2.7	.2	.1	.2	-.3
Services less rent of shelter 3/ 4/	27.613	166.2	166.3	3.5	.1	.2	.3	.2
Services less medical care services	47.738	169.6	169.9	3.2	.2	.3	.2	.2
Energy	7.901	112.7	110.7	4.6	-1.8	.9	.3	-1.8
All items less energy	92.099	163.0	163.5	2.5	.3	.1	.2	.2
All items less food and energy	74.350	164.8	165.5	2.4	.4	.2	.2	.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	24.996	141.7	142.5	.8	.6	.1	.2	.1
Energy commodities	4.312	108.6	106.5	4.9	-1.9	.4	-.3	-2.3
Services less energy services	49.354	180.4	181.0	3.1	.3	.2	.2	.3
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:								
1982-84=\$1.00 1/	-	\$.638	\$.637	-2.6	-.2	-.2	-.3	-.2
1967=\$1.00 1/	-	.214	.214	-	-	-	-	-

1/ Not seasonally adjusted.

2/ This index series will undergo a change in composition in January, 1998.

3/ Indexes on a December 1984=100 base.

4/ This index series will no longer appear in its present form after December, 1997.

See Table X for a comparable index series.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Seasonally adjusted indexes

Seasonally adjusted annual rate
percent change for
3 months ended- 6 months ended-

Expenditure category	Dec. 1996	Jan. 1997	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1997	June 1996	Sept. 1996	Dec. 1996	Mar. 1997	Sept. 1996	Mar. 1997
All items	-	-	-	-	2.6	2.6	3.9	1.5	2.6	2.7
Food and beverages	156.3	156.0	156.3	156.4	4.0	5.1	3.9	.3	4.5	2.1
Food	155.9	155.5	155.9	156.0	4.3	5.1	3.9	.3	4.7	2.1
Food at home	156.9	156.0	156.5	156.3	5.1	6.4	3.7	-1.5	5.8	1.0
Cereals and bakery products	176.3	176.2	176.0	176.7	3.5	2.3	4.2	.9	2.9	2.5
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	149.1	148.3	147.9	146.7	5.8	9.5	6.4	-6.3	7.6	-.1
Dairy products 1/	148.5	147.6	146.0	145.8	9.4	20.6	5.9	-7.1	14.9	-.8
Fruits and vegetables 2/.....	185.0	181.8	186.7	187.2	6.5	1.5	-.4	4.8	4.0	2.2
Other food at home	144.1	144.1	144.4	144.5	2.6	2.3	2.5	1.1	2.4	1.8
Sugar and sweets	145.9	146.6	146.9	145.9	4.6	4.5	1.9	.0	4.6	1.0
Fats and oils	141.8	141.4	141.6	141.8	3.5	2.3	1.1	.0	2.9	.6
Nonalcoholic beverages	127.4	127.4	126.9	128.3	-1.5	-1.6	-.6	2.9	-1.5	1.1
Other prepared food	159.5	159.3	160.4	159.6	4.8	4.2	5.4	.3	4.5	2.8
Food away from home	154.9	155.4	155.7	156.2	2.9	2.9	4.0	3.4	2.9	3.7
Alcoholic beverages	160.6	160.8	160.9	161.0	2.8	4.1	3.8	1.0	3.5	2.4
Housing 2/	151.4	151.9	152.2	152.3	2.7	2.7	3.2	2.4	2.7	2.8
Shelter	168.2	168.6	169.1	169.5	2.9	2.7	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.0
Renters' costs 3/ 4/.....	158.9	159.6	160.0	160.4	3.1	2.8	2.8	3.8	3.0	3.3
Rent, residential	163.7	164.1	164.3	164.7	3.0	2.5	3.0	2.5	2.8	2.7
Other renters' costs 4/	217.6	220.5	221.8	222.4	3.0	5.0	2.0	9.1	4.0	5.5
Homeowners' costs 3/ 4/	162.9	163.2	163.7	164.1	2.8	2.5	3.0	3.0	2.6	3.0
Owners' equivalent rent 3/	163.2	163.5	164.0	164.4	2.8	2.5	3.0	3.0	2.6	3.0
Household insurance 3/ 4/	147.3	147.9	148.9	148.4	1.9	2.8	-1.3	3.0	2.3	.8
Maintenance and repairs 1/ 4/	140.1	140.1	140.7	140.9	3.6	1.5	6.2	2.3	2.5	4.2
Maintenance and repair services 1/ 4/	150.1	150.0	150.3	150.3	2.5	7.6	1.9	.5	5.0	1.2
Maintenance and repair commodities 1/ 4/	127.1	127.3	128.3	128.7	4.9	-6.2	11.8	5.1	-.8	8.4
Fuel and other utilities 2/.....	129.8	130.8	131.2	130.2	2.6	4.8	6.1	1.2	3.7	3.6
Fuels	116.8	118.1	118.7	117.0	1.8	6.9	8.7	.7	4.3	4.6
Fuel oil and other household fuel commodities	109.5	108.2	106.0	102.3	-3.3	13.6	52.1	-23.8	4.8	7.6
Gas (piped) and electricity (energy services).....	123.1	124.8	125.7	124.2	2.4	6.1	5.0	3.6	4.2	4.3
Other utilities and public services 4/ ..	160.1	160.6	160.7	160.9	3.4	2.6	3.1	2.0	3.0	2.5
Household furnishings and operation 2/ ...	123.8	123.5	123.6	123.6	1.0	1.0	1.3	-.6	1.0	.3
Housefurnishings 4/	110.2	109.7	109.8	109.7	-.4	.0	1.1	-1.8	-.2	-.4
Housekeeping supplies	142.3	142.9	143.1	143.2	.9	1.7	1.1	2.6	1.3	1.8
Housekeeping services 4/	153.0	152.5	152.6	153.0	3.8	3.5	2.7	.0	3.6	1.3

Apparel and upkeep	130.8	131.3	131.8	131.4	-2.1	-2.4	2.2	1.8	-2.3	2.0
Apparel commodities 4/	127.4	128.0	128.5	128.1	-2.5	-2.8	1.9	2.2	-2.6	2.1
Men's and boys' apparel	128.0	129.2	128.1	127.8	-2.2	-1.9	4.5	-.6	-2.0	1.9
Women's and girls' apparel	123.7	124.5	125.9	125.4	-2.5	-5.7	5.3	5.6	-4.1	5.5
Infants' and toddlers' apparel 1/	128.1	128.5	128.1	130.7	-13.0	7.3	-12.4	8.4	-3.4	-2.6
Footwear	128.5	127.6	127.7	127.0	-.3	.0	2.2	-4.6	-.2	-1.2
Other apparel commodities 4/.....	145.7	146.3	147.7	146.3	-.5	-2.6	-9.3	1.7	-1.6	-4.0
Apparel services 1/ 4/	160.5	160.8	161.3	161.5	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.5	1.9	2.3
Transportation	145.2	145.2	145.2	145.1	2.9	1.4	5.7	-.3	2.1	2.7
Private transportation	142.8	143.0	143.2	143.0	2.3	1.1	5.2	.6	1.7	2.9
New vehicles	145.8	145.7	145.6	145.9	2.2	3.6	-.3	.3	2.9	.0
New cars	141.9	141.6	141.5	141.8	1.7	4.0	-1.1	-.3	2.9	-.7
Used cars	156.3	156.4	157.1	159.1	-10.4	.8	-3.5	7.4	-5.0	1.8
Motor fuel	111.4	112.1	112.0	109.5	8.3	-6.2	27.7	-6.6	.8	9.2
Gasoline	111.0	111.6	111.4	109.0	7.1	-6.3	27.8	-7.0	.2	9.0
Maintenance and repairs	161.5	162.2	161.9	162.5	2.6	4.6	2.3	2.5	3.6	2.4
Other private transportation 4/.....	170.9	171.1	171.8	172.3	4.4	3.8	-.5	3.3	4.1	1.4
Other private transportation										
commodities 4/.....	104.1	103.9	104.0	104.0	.4	-.8	-.4	-.4	-.2	-.4
Other private transportation										
services 4/	187.8	188.1	189.0	189.6	5.1	4.6	-.4	3.9	4.9	1.7
Public transportation	189.1	184.0	179.9	182.9	10.7	6.6	15.0	-12.5	8.6	.3
Medical care	230.8	231.2	231.6	232.4	3.4	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.8
Medical care commodities	209.9	210.1	211.0	211.7	3.5	1.9	1.9	3.5	2.7	2.7
Medical care services	235.4	235.9	236.0	236.9	3.3	3.0	3.1	2.6	3.2	2.8
Professional medical services	213.0	213.5	213.9	215.0	3.1	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.8
Entertainment 4/	158.8	158.8	159.0	159.2	2.6	1.8	3.3	1.0	2.2	2.2
Entertainment commodities 4/	143.3	142.9	143.1	143.1	1.1	1.4	2.6	-.6	1.3	1.0
Entertainment services 4/	181.0	181.4	181.6	182.3	4.1	2.5	3.8	2.9	3.3	3.4
Other goods and services 2/.....	215.6	216.8	217.7	218.7	3.3	3.4	3.0	5.9	3.4	4.4
Tobacco and smoking products	234.8	236.1	237.2	238.2	1.7	2.8	1.9	5.9	2.3	3.9
Personal care 1/	150.4	151.6	151.4	151.6	.8	3.2	-1.1	3.2	2.0	1.1
Toilet goods and personal care										
appliances 1/	143.5	144.4	144.2	144.3	.0	3.1	-5.9	2.2	1.5	-1.9
Personal care services 1/	159.4	160.8	160.8	161.2	2.1	3.1	5.7	4.6	2.6	5.2
Personal and educational expenses 4/	247.9	249.2	250.6	251.8	4.9	4.0	4.6	6.4	4.5	5.5
School books and supplies	234.2	234.0	234.8	235.6	3.4	7.1	6.0	2.4	5.2	4.2
Personal and educational services 4/ ...	249.2	250.6	252.0	253.3	4.9	3.8	4.6	6.7	4.4	5.7

Table 5. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group - Continued

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Commodity and service group	Seasonally adjusted indexes					Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for				
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	June	3 months ended-		6 months ended-		
	1996	1997	1997	1997	1996	Sept. 1996	Dec. 1996	Mar. 1997	Sept. 1996	Mar. 1997
All items	-	-	-	-	2.6	2.6	3.9	1.5	2.6	2.7
Commodities	141.9	141.9	142.2	142.0	2.0	2.0	4.3	.3	2.0	2.3
Food and beverages	156.3	156.0	156.3	156.4	4.0	5.1	3.9	.3	4.5	2.1
Commodities less food and beverages	133.1	133.3	133.5	133.1	.6	.0	4.6	.0	.3	2.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	135.2	135.4	135.7	134.7	2.8	-1.2	8.4	-1.5	.8	3.3
Apparel commodities 4/	127.4	128.0	128.5	128.1	-2.5	-2.8	1.9	2.2	-2.6	2.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	141.8	142.2	142.4	141.2	3.5	-1.2	12.1	-1.7	1.2	5.0
Durables	129.4	129.3	129.4	129.4	-.3	1.9	-.9	.0	.8	-.5
Services	173.9	174.3	174.7	175.1	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.3	3.0
Rent of shelter 3/	161.9	162.5	162.9	163.2	2.8	3.0	2.5	3.3	2.9	2.9
Household services less rent of shelter 3/ 4/.....	132.6	133.5	134.0	133.4	3.1	4.1	3.4	2.4	3.6	2.9
Transportation services	181.4	180.8	180.6	181.6	5.3	5.0	2.7	.4	5.2	1.6
Medical care services	235.4	235.9	236.0	236.9	3.3	3.0	3.1	2.6	3.2	2.8
Other services	202.1	203.0	203.7	204.6	4.1	3.3	4.3	5.0	3.7	4.7
Special indexes										
All items less food	156.2	156.5	156.8	156.9	2.4	2.1	3.9	1.8	2.2	2.9
All items less shelter	153.3	153.5	153.7	153.7	2.7	2.7	4.0	1.0	2.7	2.5
All items less homeowners' costs 3/ 4/.....	146.9	147.1	147.4	147.4	2.8	2.5	3.9	1.4	2.7	2.6
All items less medical care	152.8	153.0	153.3	153.3	2.7	3.0	3.8	1.3	2.8	2.5
Commodities less food	134.4	134.6	134.8	134.4	.6	.3	4.6	.0	.5	2.3
Nondurables less food	136.7	136.9	137.3	136.1	2.1	.3	7.7	-1.7	1.2	2.9
Nondurables less food and apparel	142.6	142.8	143.1	141.9	3.2	1.7	9.2	-1.9	2.5	3.5
Nondurables	145.9	146.0	146.3	145.8	3.1	2.0	6.0	-.3	2.6	2.8

(less than 50,000)	M	150.3	150.5	150.3	150.1	3.0	-.3	-.1	3.7	.0	-.1
South urban	M	153.7	154.2	154.5	154.8	2.7	.4	.2	3.0	.5	.2
Size A - More than 1,200,000	M	152.3	153.1	153.2	153.4	2.6	.2	.1	3.0	.6	.1
Size B - 450,000 to 1,200,000 3/.....	M	154.5	154.7	155.0	155.6	3.0	.6	.4	3.1	.3	.2
Size C - 50,000 to 450,000 3/.....	M	154.5	154.9	155.5	155.5	2.3	.4	.0	2.8	.6	.4
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	155.0	155.3	155.8	156.1	2.6	.5	.2	3.6	.5	.3
West urban	M	155.4	156.3	156.8	157.4	2.6	.7	.4	2.7	.9	.3
Size A - More than 1,250,000	M	153.8	154.7	155.2	155.9	2.5	.8	.5	2.6	.9	.3
Size C - 50,000 to 330,000 3/.....	M	160.7	161.7	162.1	163.1	3.1	.9	.6	2.9	.9	.2
Size classes											
A 4/	M	141.9	142.5	143.0	143.2	2.5	.5	.1	3.0	.8	.4
B 3/	M	156.2	156.3	156.5	157.0	2.9	.4	.3	3.1	.2	.1
C 3/	M	157.9	158.2	158.7	158.8	2.8	.4	.1	3.1	.5	.3
D	M	154.9	155.3	155.4	155.4	2.6	.1	.0	3.4	.3	.1
Selected local areas											
Chicago-Gary-Lake County, IL-IN-WI.....	M	154.6	155.3	155.9	155.6	2.8	.2	-.2	3.8	.8	.4
Los Angeles-Anaheim-Riverside, CA	M	152.7	153.6	153.6	154.2	1.5	.4	.4	1.8	.6	.0
N.Y.-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton,	M	164.7	165.1	166.2	166.6	2.5	.9	.2	2.8	.9	.7
PA-NJ-DE-MD 5/	M	163.6	164.4	164.9	165.3	2.5	.5	.2	2.7	.8	.3
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA 5/ ..	M	153.1	154.1	155.0	156.2	3.6	1.4	.8	3.0	1.2	.6
Baltimore, MD 6/	1	-	154.6	-	155.9	2.7	.8	-	-	-	-
Boston-Lawrence-Salem, MA-NH	1	-	166.6	-	166.8	3.2	.1	-	-	-	-
Cleveland-Akron-Lorain, OH	1	-	146.2	-	147.5	3.1	.9	-	-	-	-
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL	1	-	156.0	-	156.2	3.9	.1	-	-	-	-
St. Louis-East St. Louis, MO-IL 7/	1	-	150.6	-	151.1	2.1	.3	-	-	-	-
Washington, DC-MD-VA 6/	1	-	158.9	-	159.1	2.4	.1	-	-	-	-
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	2	150.2	-	150.8	-	-	-	-	3.4	.4	-
Detroit-Ann Arbor, MI	2	149.4	-	150.3	-	-	-	-	2.6	.6	-
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX	2	143.0	-	143.6	-	-	-	-	2.0	.4	-
Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley, PA 7/	2	148.8	-	149.6	-	-	-	-	3.4	.5	-

1/ Foods, fuels, and several other items priced every month in all areas; most other goods and services priced as indicated:

M - Every month.

1 - January, March, May, July, September, and November.

2 - February, April, June, August, October, and December.

- 2/ Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map in technical notes.
 - 3/ Starting in January, 1998, a new Size Class B/C will be introduced, composed of current Size Class B and Size Class C cities. There will be no individual Size Class B or Size Class C.
 - 4/ Indexes on a December 1986=100 base.
 - 5/ Indexes for the cities of Philadelphia and San Francisco will no longer be published on a monthly basis starting in January, 1998. Beginning in February, 1998 they will be published on a bi-monthly basis.
 - 6/ Indexes for the cities of Washington and Baltimore will no longer be published separately after December, 1997. Beginning in January, 1998 the two cities will be published as a Washington-Baltimore combined metropolitan area.
 - 7/ Indexes for the cities of Pittsburgh and St. Louis will no longer be published on a bi-monthly basis after December, 1997. Beginning in July, 1998 they will be published semi-annually, each January and July.
 - Data not available.
- NOTE: Local area CPI indexes are byproducts of the national CPI program. Each local index has a smaller sample size than the national index and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in their escalator clauses.